

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 362

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0413

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR COUNTER TERRORISM FUNDS

1. INITIAL INDICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE USINT SECTION HAVE LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, DESPITE THE CONTROLLED SOCIETY OF CUBA, THERE ARE CERTAIN ELEMENTS PRESENT WHICH CONSTITUTE POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREATS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF US FUGITIVES, INCLUDING HIJACKERS, RESIDING IN HAVANA WHOSE PRESENCE IS KNOWN TO USINT. IN THE PAST, WHEN THE SWISS EMBASSY WAS REPRESENTING OUR INTERESTS, PERSONAL THREATS WERE MADE BY SOME OF THE HIJACKERS WHICH WERE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO PRECIPITATE THEIR ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE NOW AT LIBERTY AND HAVE ACCOSTED (SO FAR PEACE-ABLY) VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE USINT SECTION, IN THE OFFICE BUILDING, THE HOTEL, AND NOW, IN THEIR HOMES. BECAUSE OF THE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES OF THE SWISS PERSONNEL, AND AS THE RESULT OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCES WITH SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL EFFORTS AND PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN TO PROTECT MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL US COMMUNITY.

2. THE POTENTIAL OF A "SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION", MOST LIKELY ORGANIZED BY RESIDENT EXILE LEFTISTS OR TERRORISTS EITHER AT THE OFFICE BUILDING OR AT THE HOMES OF THE OFFICIAL STAFF MEMBERS, CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN THIS REGARD, IT IS BELIEVED THAT REASONABLE PROTECTIVE EFFORTS MUST

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BE TAKEN TO PRECLUDE THE EVENTUALITY THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS COULD OCCUR AND COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL AND JEOPARDIZE US PERSONNEL.

3. THE VIOLENT ANTI-CASTRO ELEMENTS IN THE MIAMI AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA AREAS HAVE GIVEN RISE TO A DEGREE OF CONCERN FOR OUR WELL BEING AND WELFARE. TO DATE, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY INTELLIGENCE

TO INDICATE IF ANY CONTACT HAS BEEN OR IS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THESE US ORGANIZATIONS AND ANYONE IN CUBA BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO IGNORE THIS POSSIBILITY. IT WOULD BE OF GREAT PROPAGANDA VALUE TO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS IF A TERRORIST ACT COULD BE COMMITTED AGAINST OFFICIAL US PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL IN HAVANA. SUCH AN ACT MIGHT EVEN BE PERPETRATED IN THE BELIEF THAT WORLD OPINION WOULD BLAME THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

4. IN ADDITION, CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY POINTED TO EXPANSION OF VIOLENT CRIME IN HAVANA (SEE CASTRO SPEECH TO COMITATOS DE LA DEFENSA DE LA REVOLUCION, SEPTEMBER 28.). AS RESULT OF CRIME UPSWING, POLICE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO CITY FROM PROVINCES AND TRAFFIC POLICE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED PATROL DUTIES. DESPITE INCREASE OF POLICE EFFORT, RISK OF BURGLARY CONTINUES TO BE HIGH, PARTICULARLY FOR PURPORTEDLY RICH AMERICANS.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CONCERNS, ALL SECURITY MEASURES WHICH CAN BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND HARDENED PUBLIC ACCESS SECURITY CONTROLS ARE BEING DESIGNED INTO THE REMODELING OF THE OFFICIAL BUILDING. WE ARE, HOWEVER, EXTREMELY VULNERABLE IN OUR INDIVIDUAL RESIDENCES AND BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT ADDITIONAL SECURITY DEVICES BE INSTALLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER HAS SURVEYED THE INDIVIDUAL HOMES AND HAS RECOMMENDED THE INSTALLATION OF EXTENSIVE GRILLWORK ON THE UNPROTECTED DOORS AND WINDOWS, AS WELL AS MANY OTHER PROTECT-
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IVE DEVICES. DUE TO THE LACK OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE SKILLS AND MATERIALS IT IS BELIEVED THAT SUCH GRILLWORK CANNOT BE FABRICATED AND INSTALLED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE MONTHS. IN THE MEANTIME, POST PROPOSES EMPLOYING CIVILIAN GUARDS (SERENOS) AS THE ONLY IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE RECOURSE. THREE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFTS WILL BE REQUIRED AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF (US 16,200.) THIS ESTIMATE IS COMPUTED AT A MONTHLY SALARY OF \$180 (USD 200) PER GUARD AND THREE GUARDS FOR NINE HOUSES FOR THREE MONTHS. THIS FIGURE WILL VARY DEPENDING UPON THE OCCUPANCY DATES OF THE HOUSES (ONLY 5 OF THE 9 ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED) AND THE COMPLETION DATES OF THE GRILLWORK INSTALLATIONS. (THE GOC PROVIDES EXTERNAL GUARD SERVICE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE OFFICE BUILDING AND RESIDENCE.)

7. THE SERENOS TO BE EMPLOYED WILL BE PROCURED THROUGH CUBALSE, THE CUBAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION. THEY WILL BE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING, AND WILL BE UNARMED EXCEPT FOR A FLASHLIGHT, NIGHTSTICK, AND WHISTLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT PROPER AND FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME TO APPROACH THE HOST GOVERNMENT WITH A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POLICE COVERAGE. COMPOUND HOUSING IS NOT POSSIBLE.

8. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 10 ASSIGNED PERSONNEL TO THE USINT SECTION. WHILE THIS IS IN STRICT RECIPROCITY WITH SIZE OF THE CUBAN

INTERESTS SECTION IN WASHINGTON, BOTH COULD POSSIBLY BE INCREASED
IN THE FUTURE. THE REDUCTION OF PERSONEL IS NOT CONTEMPLATED.

9. EXTERIOR WINDOW GRILLS, EXTERIOR LIGHTING, LOCKS, AND ALARMS
ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE MINIMUM NECESSARY RESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL
SECURITY AND THEIR ESTIMATED COSTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. EXTERIOR LIGHTING FIXTURES, CABLE AND CONDUIT	3,500
INSTALLATION,	1,500
TOTAL	\$5,000

B. WINDOW AND DOOR GRILLS
MATERIALS 15,000
INSTALLATION 20,000
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TOTAL	\$35,000
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THE MAJORITY OF ALL RESIDENTIAL WINDOWS ARE WOODEN JALOUSIE
CONSTRUCTION AND THE DOORS ARE EITHER GLASS FRENCH DOORS OR
CONTAIN LARGE WINDOW PANES. ADDITIONAL LOCKS AND ALARMS WILL BE
ADDRESSED AT A LATER DATE.

10. REQUEST FUNDING FOR EXPENDITURES NOTED IN PARAS 6 AND 9.
LANE

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